

Remarks

Applicant thanks the Examiner for his careful consideration of the application.

Claims 1, 3-10, 12-21 and 23-32 are pending in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 3-6, 8, 10, 12-15, 17, 21, 23-25 and 27 under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Stikkors (US Patent No. 4,165,466) ("Stikkors"). Applicant has canceled these claims. The Examiner rejected these claims due to apparent structural similarities between Stikkors' apparatus and Applicants system. Applicant has removed the structural limitations by replacing the system claim with a method claim. The written description provides ample support for the method claim as drafted.

As previously pointed out by Applicant, the Examiner has not pointed to any passage in Stikkors that discloses any rationale for locating the pivot point, let alone that doing so would result in characteristic increases or decreases in the average belt tension during system operation, proportionate to the applied torque. The Examiner asserts that it would be apparent to locate the pivot such that application of torque in a first direction elevates belt tension and application in a second direction reduces belt tension. However, Stikkors apparently did not think it was obvious. Stikkors clearly had no understanding of, or desire for dynamic variation in belt tension. The Stikkors invention is fundamentally different in its intent. It is designed to maintain constant ("substantially constant") belt tension, and this is a repeated refrain throughout the invention. The Examiner has not shown where variation of belt tension was desired or even acknowledged, let alone understood and used to advantage, which is precisely what Applicant describes and claims.

Conclusion

No additional fee is believed to be required for this amendment. However, the undersigned Xerox Corporation attorney hereby authorizes the charging of any necessary fees, other than the issue fee, to Xerox Corporation Deposit Account No. 24-0025. This also constitutes a request for any needed extension of time and authorization to charge all fees therefor to Xerox Corporation Deposit Account No. 24-0025.

A telephone interview is respectfully requested at the number listed below prior to any further Office Action, i.e., if the Examiner has any remaining questions or issues to address after this paper. The undersigned will be happy to discuss any further Examiner-proposed amendments as may be appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

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